

6

George
Asakura

Drowning Love



Drowning Love

6

Drowning Love

21

Camellia p5

22

Light p53

23

Urge p95

24

Change p135

THE STORY SO FAR...

• • •

THE SEEMINGLY PERFECT WORLD NATSUME AND KOU CREATED WAS TORN APART BY NATSUME'S KIDNAPPING. FINDING HERSELF UNABLE TO STAY BESIDE HIM AND INCAPABLE OF ESCAPING A LIFE WHERE SHE FEELS LIKE SHE'S CONSTANTLY DROWNING, NATSUME BREAKS UP WITH KOU. WITH THEIR HEARTS YET TO HEAL, THEY FIND THEMSELVES SHARING A CLASS AT THE START OF THEIR THIRD YEAR OF MIDDLE SCHOOL...



*Drowning
Love*



MY FIFTEEN
MINUTES
OF FAME...

...ARE ALL
USED UP.







NATSUME!



WAKE UP!
SCHOOL
STARTS
TODAY!

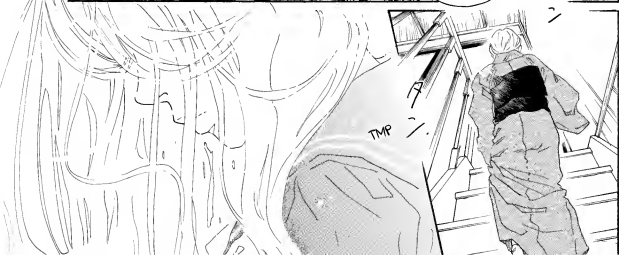


SPRING
BREAK IS
ALREADY OVER,
SLEEPYHEAD!

TMP



TMP



TMP



OH.

YOU'RE
ALREADY
UP.



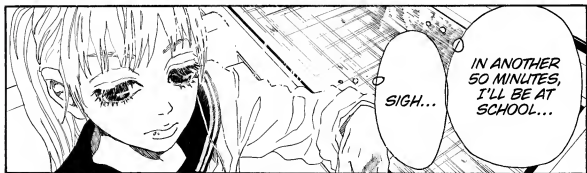
NATSUME?

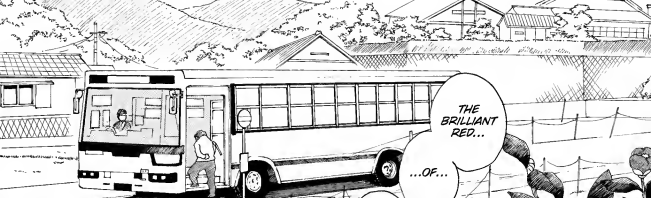


SHAAK

77







THE
BRILLIANT
RED...

...OF...

...
CAMELLIA
FLOWERS.



SO MANY
OF THEM
HAVE
BLOOMED
ALREADY.



...



I
WISH...

...I'D
BROUGHT
A CAMERA.



WANNA
GO
UP?

YOU KNOW,
KOU, I
BET THE
OPENING
ASSEMBLY
IS GONNA
BE LAME.

AW, MAN!
WE'RE IN
DIFFERENT
CLASSES.
WHAT A
DRAG.

LET'S
HAVE
SOME
TEA
TIME.

THEY'RE
ALL...

...
BLOOMING
LIKE THE
CAMELLIAS
FROM THIS
MORNING.

SMOK-
ING,
PROBAB-
LY.

EVERYTHING
I HAD...

TEA
TIME?

WHISPER

We got
ratted
out!

REMEM-
BER HOW
THEY
CAUGHT
US LAST
TIME?

ARE
YOU
STUPID?

...WHEN
KOU-CHAN
WAS IN ARM'S
REACH...

...I'VE
CARELESSLY
THROWN AWAY.

Huh?
SO THE
RUMOR
ABOUT
HIM
DATING
TAKEDA
ISN'T TRUE?

NO WAY.
DIDN'T THEY
BREAK UP?

I SAW HIM
WALKING WITH
THAT PERSON
FROM SHINKAI
GIRLS' THE
OTHER DAY.



I
WONDER
IF IT'S
JUST ME?

I ALWAYS
GOT THAT
FEELING
AROUND
KOLI-CHAN,
BUT...

THE REASON I DON'T
SEE HIM AS ANYTHING
MORE THAN SOME
PUNK KID TRYING TO
LOOK COOL...

THE REASON
HE DOESN'T
SHINE AS
BRIGHTLY AS
BEFORE...



...ARE
UP, TOO.

...MAYBE
HIS FIFTEEN
MINUTES...

...

KANA!

...KANA-CHAN
IS HAPPY
TO BE IN
THE SAME
CLASS AS
KOLI-CHAN.

I
BET...

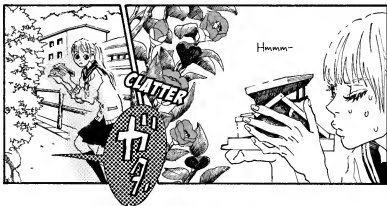
LOOKING
FORWARD
TO THIS
SEMESTER!

WE'RE
TOGETHER!
WE'RE BOTH
IN 3-D!

Awesome!



スナップ
シャッター



AS FOR ME...

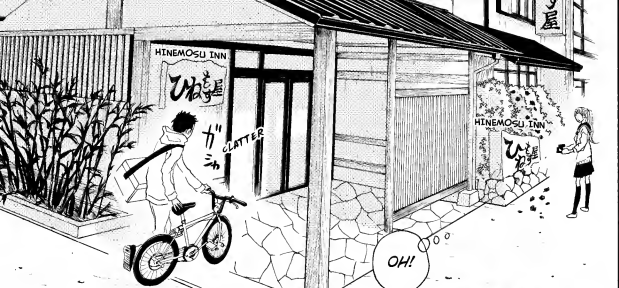
I THINK I MIGHT...

...HATE IT.

Koichiro Hasegawa

Kana Matsunaga

Natsume Mochizuki



...IN THE SAME
CLASS, TOO?



IT'S
OTOMO
...



THANKS FOR
ALWAYS TAKING
OUR SPECIAL
ORDERS ON
SHORT NOTICE
LIKE THIS!



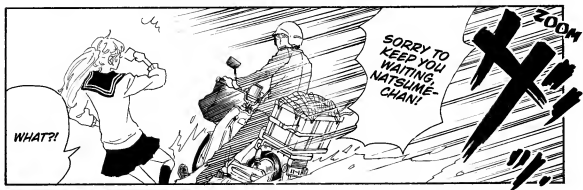
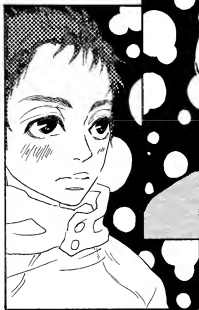
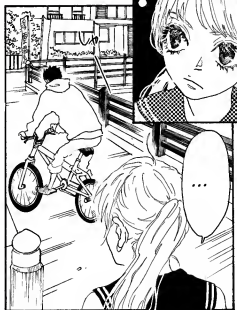
WASN'T
HE...

IT'S
A BIG
HELP!



What
delicious-
looking fat
greenling
and marbled
rockfish!





THANKS SO MUCH!

GLOW
はぁ



From Hirono,
as always,
packed with love!



YOU KNOW ...

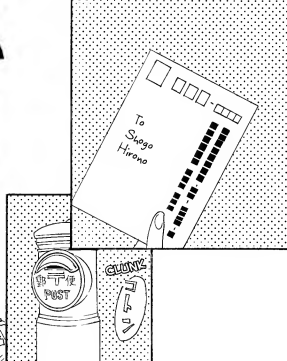
... WE SURE HAVE BEEN EXCHANGING THESE POLAROID PHOTOS ...

... FOR A WHILE NOW...



I
REALLY
HAVE...

...GAINED
WEIGHT.



To
Shogo
Hirono

郵便
POST

CLUNK



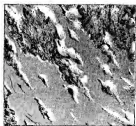
MY BODY
FEELS SO
HEAVY
AND
SLUGGISH
...

RIGHT
NOW...

...THE
THINGS
I HAVE
GOING
FOR ME
ARE...



BOOM
T

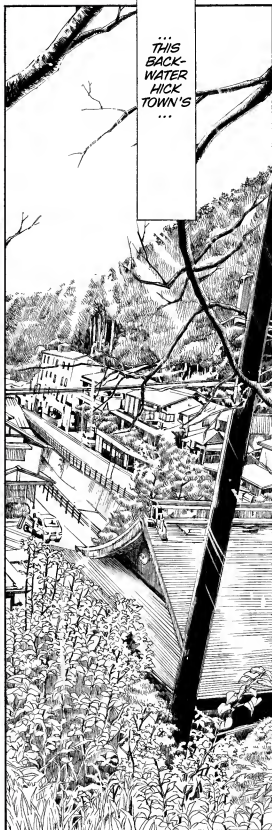


...BEAUTIFUL
SCENERY
...



...AND
MY
OWN...

...LEAD-
FILLED
BODY...



...
THIS
BACK-
WATER
HICK
TOWN'S
...

GET YOUR
NEW SEAT
PROMPTLY,
NOW!

WE HAVE
THREE
THINGS
TO DO IN
HOMEROOM
TODAY...



*ASSIGNED SEATING!
*NO TRADING NUMBERS!

3

NICE!



A
WINDOW
SEAT
IN THE
BACK!



*UCHI-
GUMO

ALL I
HAVE.

AND...
THAT'S
ALL,
ISN'T
IT?





HEY!
NOT
FAIR!

WHY
NOT?

NUMBER
SIX! BACK
ROW, HERE
I COME!

AWRIGHT!

I ALWAYS
HAVE
GOOD
LUCK WITH
THESE
THINGS.

I HOPE
IT'S A
HOTTIE!

NAH, IT'LL
BE SOME
UGLY
CHICK!

SO?
WHO'S
SITTIN'
NEXT TO
ME?

BWA
HA
HA

...WHAT
WAS I
SAYING
ABOUT
LUCK?

Aww... we
aren't sittin'
together
anymore...



MOVE
IT.

IT
MUST
BE
BAD-

HUH?

I'M
NUMBER
SIX.

YER
RIGHT.

OH.







AW, THAT SUCKS. YEARBOOK COMMITTEE IS HARSH.

HOT WATER COMMITTEE

YEARBOOK COMMITTEE

KATSUTOSHI OTOMO
NATSUME MOCHIZUKI

YOU HAVE TONS TO DO EVEN DURING EXAMS, AND YOU CAN'T SLACK OFF, EITHER.

MY BROTHER SAID IT WAS REALLY TOUGH.



...
...
Stuck together again...

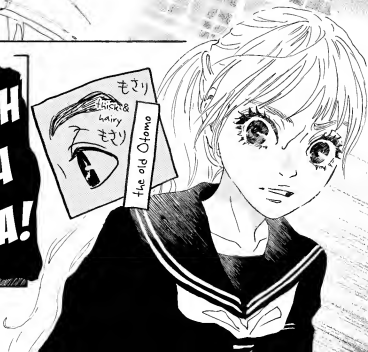
They lost at rock-paper-scissors.

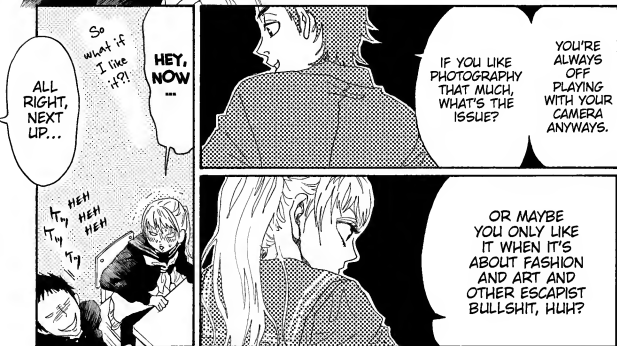
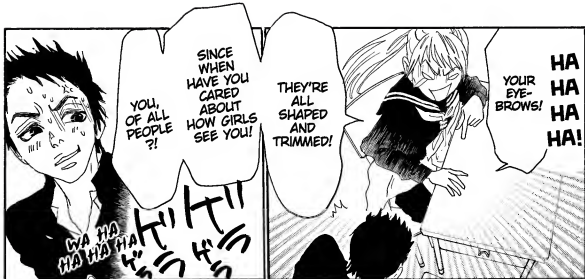
EVEN IF YOU WERE CHOSEN BY ROCK-PAPER-SCISSORS, IT'S FINAL!

MAKE SURE YOU DO YOUR ASSIGNED JOB PROPERLY!



PSSH
HA
HA!



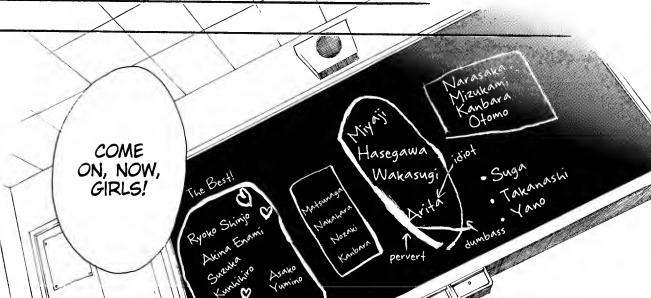




ALL
RIGHT,
ALL
RIGHT,
SETTLE
DOWN!



WE'LL
BE PICKIN'
GROUPS
FOR YER
LONG-
AWAITED
CLASS
TRIP.



COME
ON, NOW,
GIRLS!

The Best!

Ryoko Slingo
Ariana Enami
Suzuka
Kushiro

Makunaga
Nanahara
Noriko
Kanbara

Miyaji
Hasegawa
Wakasugi
Arita

idiot
pervert
dumbass

Narasaka
Mizukami
Kanbara
Otomo

Suga
Takanashi
Yano



I NEED
ONE MORE
PERSON TO
JOIN
THESE
TWO OVER
HERE!

I TOLD
YOU TO
MAKE
THREE
GROUPS!

*GODS OF JAPAN



EVER
SINCE THAT
HAPPENED...

...EVERY-
THING'S BEEN
SO DIFFICULT
FOR ME.



WELL,
WHATEVER.

WE DON'T
HAVE
ANYONE
LEFT TO
GROUP
WITH
THEM.

THOSE
TWO ARE
JUST
THE
LEFT-
OVERS.

HUH?



...BEFORE
I KNEW IT,
I WAS ALL
ALONE.

SO,
NATURALLY,
TO MAKE
THINGS
EASIER...

...I STOPPED
GOING TO THE
BASKETBALL
CLUB...

...AND
THEN...

AND I
JUST MADE
THINGS
DIFFICULT
FOR
EVERYONE
ELSE.

NO BIG
LOSS.

ALL I
HAD WERE
SURFACE-
LEVEL FRIENDS
ANYWAY.

WHAT-
EVER.

I only buy
Castella cake if
it's got the paper
stuck on, man.

NATSLIME-
CHAN?

...IT'S A
LITTLE
ANNOYING.

BUT AT
TIMES
LIKE
THESE...

UM...

IF YOU
LIKE,
I CAN
JOIN
YOUR
GROUP.

I WANT
TO BE
IN HER
GROUP.

I WENT
TO ELEMEN-
TARY
SCHOOL
WITH
HER.

Come on,
don't drag
me into
this!

SUZUKA!
LET'S ROCK-
PAPER-SCISSORS
TO SEE WHO
GOES!

ARE
YOU OKAY
WITH THAT,
KANA-
CHAN?!

ARE YOU
SERIOUS
ABOUT
THIS?!

NO
NEED TO
ARGUE!
THE
GROUPS
ARE ONLY
FOR ROLL
CALL
ANYWAY!

...I FIND
THIS A LOT
WORSE.

Aww...

FOR SOME
REASON...



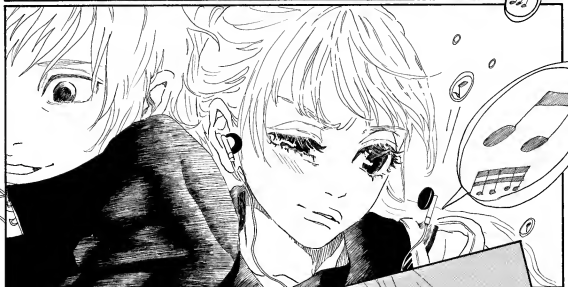


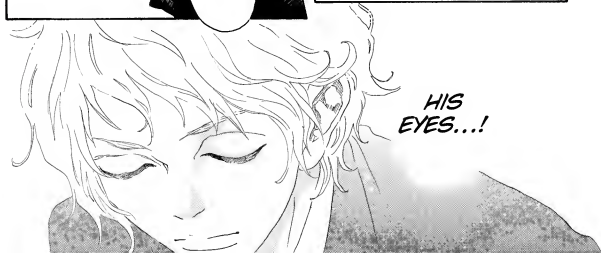
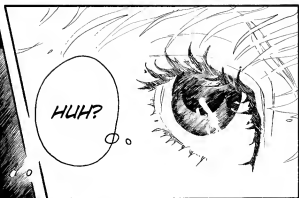
THAT'S
WHERE
MIZUBASHO
FLOWERS
ARE FROM,
RIGHT?

LET'S GO
LOOK IT
UP IN THE
LIBRARY.

SEE
YOU!!











SOMEHOW...



SOMEHOW...



...THAT'S
IT?

"SORRY."



...PAST
OUR PRIME
NOW.

KOU-CHAN
AND I...

...BOTH...

...SHOULD BE...

...LEFT
BEHIND
LIKE
THIS?

SO
WHY
WAS
JUST
I...



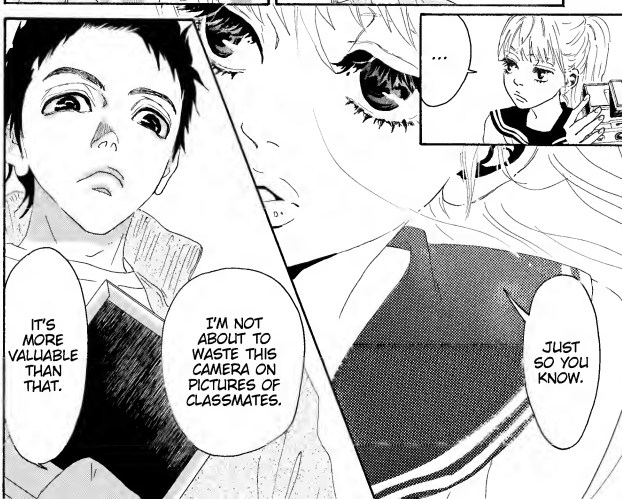
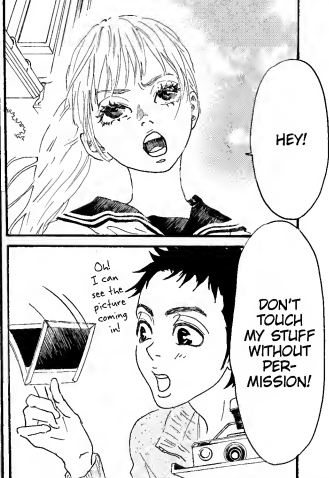


HE MOVED ON
TO SOMEONE
ELSE IN THE BLINK
OF AN EYE...

I'M
JUST
ONE
FLOWER
...

...LIKE
ANY
OTHER.







...OH.

I see.

I'M
PRETTY
SURE
THE PICT-
URES
ARE GONNA
BE BY A
PRO.

THIS
ABOUT
THE
YEAR-
BOOK?

...

WRIGGLE

YEAH.

YOU CAN'T
JUST MAKE
ME DO IT.



CRACK

CRACK

HE'S
TRYIN'
TO
ESCAPE!

OH!

WRIGGLE

WHAT
THE-?!

WRIGGLE

WRIGGLE

WRIGGLE



DID YOU
CATCH IT?

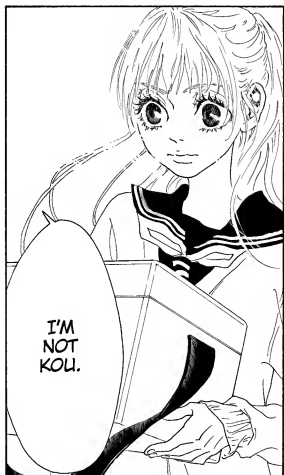
...

WRIGGLE

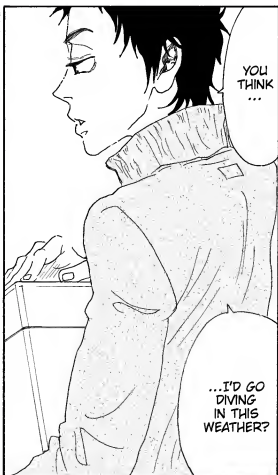
WRIGGLE

WRIGGLE

GIVE
THIS TO
YOUR
FOLKS,
WILL
YOU?



I'M
NOT
KOU.



YOU
THINK
...

...I'D GO
DIVING
IN THIS
WEATHER?



BACK
THEN
...

YOU
KNOW...

...

...



...REVOLVED
AROUND
KOU,
DIDN'T IT?

...EVERY-
THING
YOU
DID...



YEAH,
PROB'LY.



HEH.



ISN'T THAT
JUST
JEALOUSY
SPEAKING?

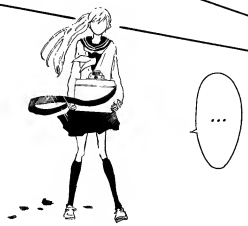
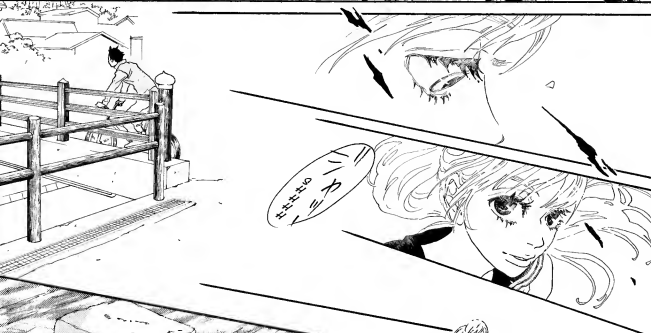


BACK
THEN, AT
LEAST.



PPT 3/1.







...I
SHOULD
HAVE
TAKEN HIS
PICTURE
JUST
THEN.



OR
MAYBE
NOT.



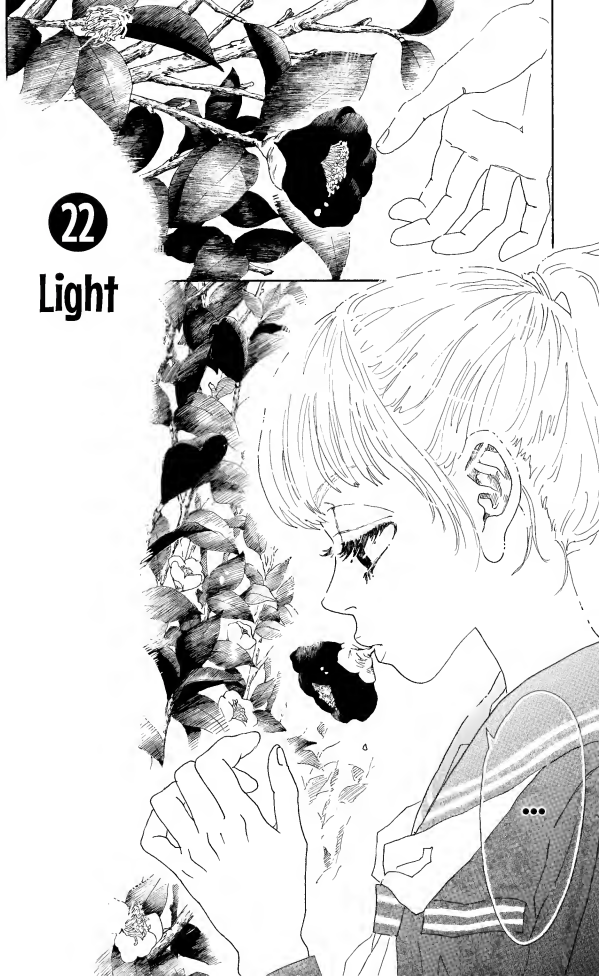


*Drowning
Love*



22

Light





...FOR A WHILE,
RIGHT AFTER IT
HAPPENED...

...RYLTA KEPT
GETTING INTO
FIGHTS AND COMING
HOME EARLY.



I'M
GLAD
HE
FITS IN
NOW.

GOOD.

BEFORE
...



HE NEVER SAID
ANYTHING ABOUT
WHO OR WHY HE
FOUGHT WHENEVER
OUR PARENTS
QUESTIONED HIM...



I WON!
ISN'T THAT
ENOUGH?

WHO
CARES
WHAT
HAP-
PENED?

...BUT I'M PRETTY
SURE IT WAS
BECAUSE PEOPLE
WERE TALKING
ABOUT ME.



...I'M
SORRY.

UKIGUMO BUS

I'M REALLY
PROUD OF
HIM.



I NEVER
EXPECTED HIM
TO GROW UP
SO STRONG.

KA-THOK

カ
タッ



THAT'S
FUNNY.

HEH.

...

SHOO

はっ

URK!

FLINCH

ひく



YOU
KNOW,
SISTER
RYLITA...
...



YOU DON'T
NEED TO
TESTIFY IN
COURT?

OH,
REALLY?

...WAS
NEVER
GOOD AT
THESE
THINGS.



YOU
KNOW?!

I'D BE
GUNNIN'
FOR THE
DEATH
PENALTY,
MYSELF!

I
HONESTLY
THOUGHT
IT WAS
PRETTY
ODD...

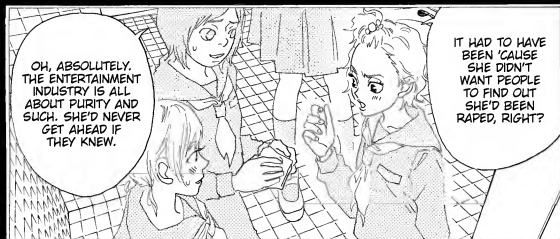
SHE
WOULD ASK
ME ABOUT
ALL SORTS
OF STUFF.

AND
BECAUSE
SHE
WANTED TO
STAY CLOSE
TO ME,

SHE KEPT
TELLING ME,
"I DON'T
KNOW ANYONE
IN MY CLASS!
IT SUCKS!"

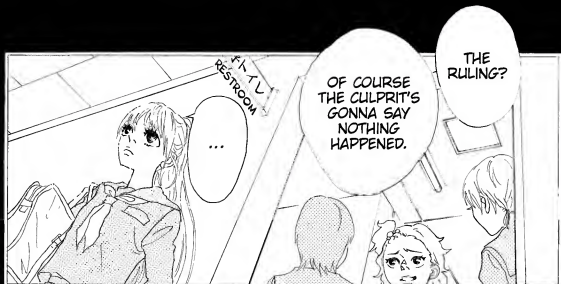
WHEN WE
BECAME
SECOND-YEAR
STUDENTS,
HAYASE AND
I ENDED UP
IN DIFFERENT
CLASSES...

SHE NEVER
WENT THROUGH
AN EXAMINATION.



OH, ABSOLUTELY.
THE ENTERTAINMENT
INDUSTRY IS ALL
ABOUT PURITY AND
SUCH. SHE'D NEVER
GET AHEAD IF
THEY KNEW.

IT HAD TO HAVE
BEEN 'CAUSE
SHE DIDN'T
WANT PEOPLE
TO FIND OUT
SHE'D BEEN
RAPED, RIGHT?



OF COURSE
THE CULPRIT'S
GONNA SAY
NOTHING
HAPPENED.

THE
RULING?

...

TO WHICH
SHE COULD
ADD HER
OWN
BRAND OF
BULLSHIT.

...BUT REALLY,
SHE WAS JUST
GETTING DIRT AND
INFO FROM ME SHE
COULD USE TO MAKE
HERSELF POPULAR
WITH THE OTHER
GIRLS IN HER CLASS.



YOU'RE
GOING HOME
WITHOUT
ME?

NATSUME-
CHAN!



ISN'T IT
LONELY BY
YOURSELF?

YOU
DON'T HAVE
ANYONE ELSE
TO WALK
YOU HOME,
DO YOU?

SHE SAID
THOSE NICE
THINGS TO
ME...

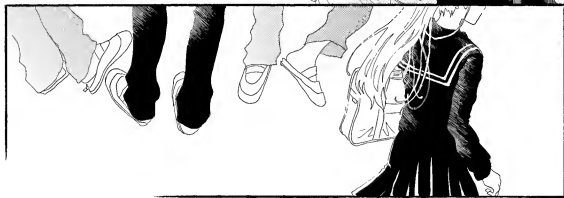
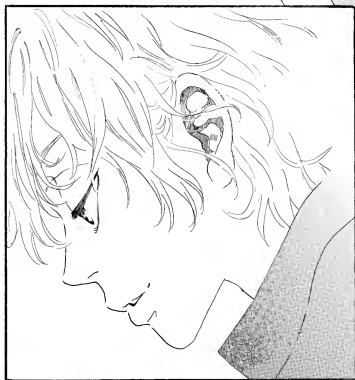
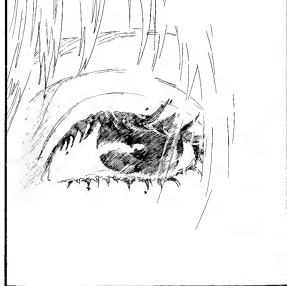
...AND
I WAS
HAPPY...

...SO I TALKED
WITH HER.

BUT SHE
WAS JUST
USING ME FOR
GOSSIP.

SHE'S THE
WORST.

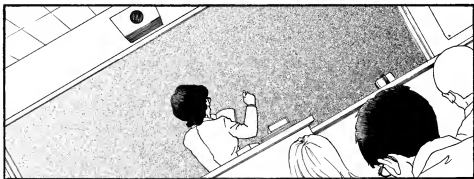






DIDN'T
EVEN
MEET
MY
EYES.

...WOW.





"YEAH,
PROB'LY."



"BACK THEN,
AT LEAST."



...THEY
CHANGE
MORE
AND
MORE.

AS
THINGS
CHANGE
...

UKIGUMO HOT SPRINGS









ANYWAY,
THAT'S NO
CONCERN OF
YOURS.

NOT
REALLY.



SO
WHAT
ABOUT
YOU,
THEN?

I GUESS
NOT.



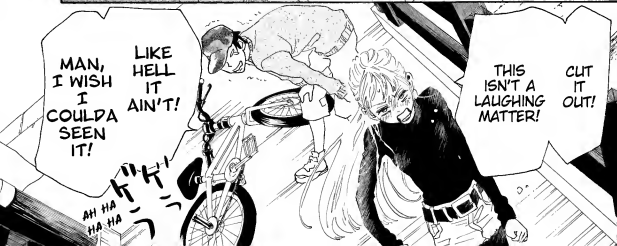
AND
WHAT IF
I DID?



ARE THE
RUMORS
TRUE?

I HEARD
YOU BEAT UP
HAYASE FOR
TALKIN' ABOUT
YOU BEHIND
YOUR BACK.





CRASH!

I'M NOT
LAUGHING
AT ALL!

NUH-
UH!



LOOK,
I'M
SORRY,
OKAY?

THEY
WERE JUST
CURIOUS!

AH!

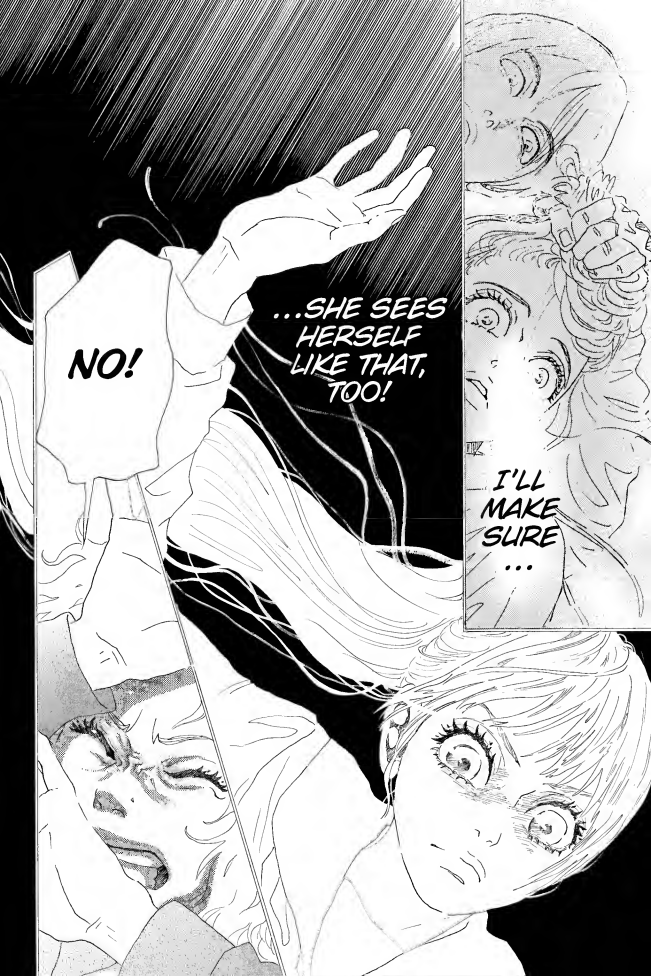




*SHE'S
SO SMALL...*

GRAB

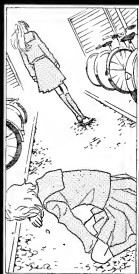
*...SO
POWERLESS...*



NO!

**...SHE SEES
HERSELF
LIKE THAT,
TOO!**

**I'LL
MAKE
SURE**
...



OR DID SHE
GO AND DO
SOMETHIN'
TERRIBLE TO
YOU?

HAYASE MADE A
SCENE, SAYIN' SHE
GOT BEAT UP, BUT
THAT CAN'T BE
TRUE, CAN IT?

AND
AFTER
ALL WE
TRIED TO
DO FOR
YOU!

WE'RE
DONE
WITH
YOU.

WHAT-
EVER.

I DON'T
CARE
ANYMORE.

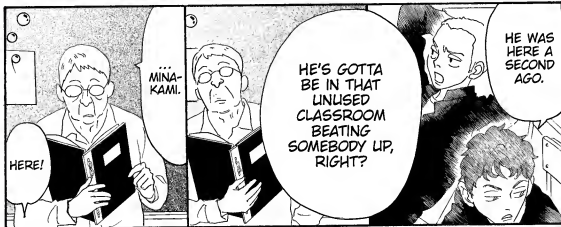
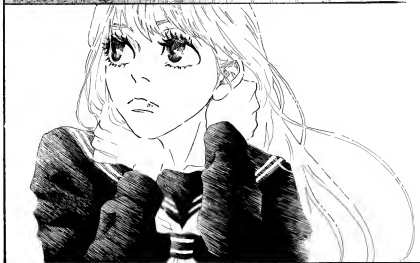
IT'S TOO
MUCH
TROUBLE.

WHATEVER.

BELIEVE
HER
IF YOU
WANT!



HASEGAWA'S
OUT TODAY,
HUH?



HERE!

...
MINA-
KAMI.

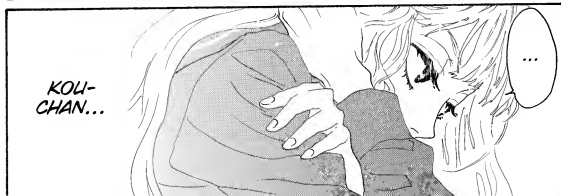
HE'S GOTTA
BE IN THAT
UNUSED
CLASSROOM
BEATING
SOMEBODY UP,
RIGHT?

HE WAS
HERE A
SECOND
AGO.



WHISPER

IS HE
JUST
GOING TO
IGNORE
THAT?

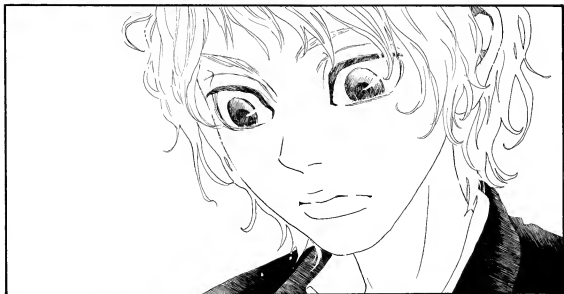


KOU-
CHAN...

...



...I WONDER WHAT
RUNS THROUGH
HIS HEAD, DAY
AFTER DAY?



HEY,
KORI.



WHAT'S
WRONG?

...



YOU
HEARD
HIM. HE
SAID
YOU'RE
BORING.

HEH.

THIS IS
BORING.



HA
HA
HA!

...
TONIGHT! YAMADA'S
REALLY
GOING
FOR IT...



LIGH!

HE
THREW
UP!

WHAM!
YOU'RE
BORING!

Hurk!

...BUT
WITH MY
CONFIDENCE
BROKEN
...

...ALL
THAT'S
LEFT
IS MY
EMPTY
PRIDE.



You
little
shit!
You got your
damn puke on me!

That's
low!
1st 2nd 3rd 4th 5th 6th 7th 8th 9th 10th 11th 12th

Hey now! Quit
laughing!

I
THOUGHT
WE WERE
THE
SAME...



MAYBE
I'M THE
ONE...



I'VE
DECIDED
...

MOCHI-
ZUKI...

...I WANT TO
HELP YOU OUT
BY MAKING A
PHOTOGRAPHY
CLUB.



...WHO'S
BECOME TOO
MUCH OF A
BOTHER.

SO... I OVERHEARD OTOMO SAY SOMETHING ABOUT YOU LIKING PHOTOGRAPHY...

...A WHAT?

Support the Yearbook Committee!

Join the Photography Club!

With doing both in mind...

Mochizuki shall take the photos for the yearbook. If this happens...

- Club membership will make your transcript more appealing!
 - Photographing classmates will strengthen your bond!
 - Your once-in-a-lifetime memories will create an unforgettable album!
- ~Mochizuki's smile will make everyone happy~

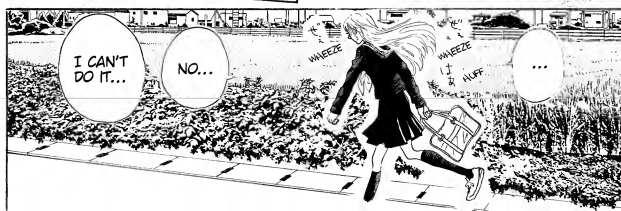
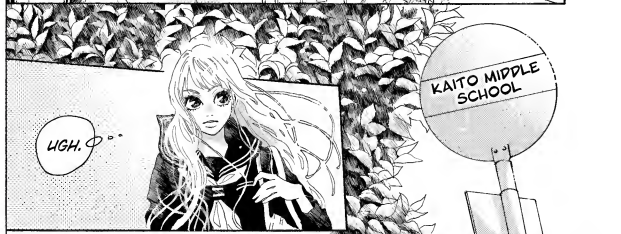
000000
0000000000
0000-00-0000

Snack Dream Maguro

スナックドリーム マグロ

HOW 'BOUT IT?

FWIP







NICE!

YOU'RE
HEAVY.

WHAT
THE
HELL?!
THAT'S
DANGER-
OUS!

HA
HA
HA!

QUIT
LAUGHIN'!

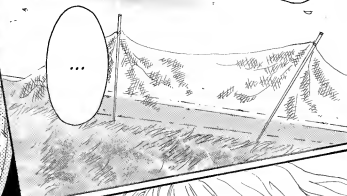
☆
HMPH.

Die
already.

ACK!



DO THAT
AGAIN,
AND I'M
THROWING
YOU OFF!



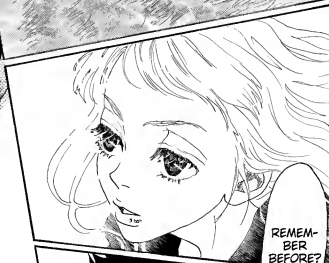
YOU...

...
LAUGHED
THEN.

ABOUT
HAYASE.

...

YEAH.



REMEM-
BER
BEFORE?







I
DON'T
REALLY
GET
IT...

...IS
THAT
SO?

I DON'T
MIND
IF YOU
DON'T
GET IT.

YOU'RE
PRETTY
DUMB,
AFTER
ALL.

OKAY,
OKAY!

I'M
SORRY,
ALREADY!



チカ CHIKA

チカ CHIKA

チカ CHIKA



OH!



HUH?

YOU
MUST
HAVE
MESSED
UP.

I
COULDN'T
GET ANY
OUT.

HEY...

...CAN YOU
REALLY DRINK
NECTAR FROM
A CAMELLIA?

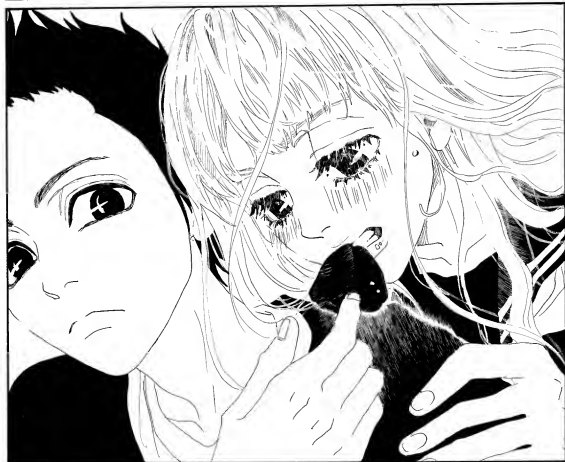


TRY
THIS
ONE.



HUH?

HERE.





OH!
OH!
...



RIGHT ?
IT'S SO SWEET!
YOU EVER DO THIS IN TOKYO?

I'VE SUCKED
AZALEA AND
SALVIA LIKE
AN IDIOT
BEFORE...



WHAT'S...

THIS?

OH, COME
ON. WHAT
THE HELL'S
UP WITH
YOU TWO?!

Vooooooooom





HE
FINALLY...

...
LOOKED
AT ME.

THAT
WAVERING
COLOR DEEP
IN HIS EYES...





...IS A FLICKERING
FLAME I THOUGHT
I WOULD NEVER
FEEL AGAIN.



*Drowning
Love*





23

Urge

SHUSHHHH

JUMP



"...
ON THE
MOUNTAIN
OR IN THE
SEA."



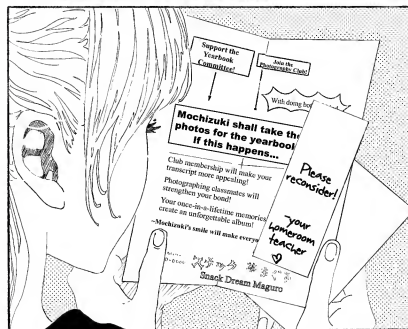
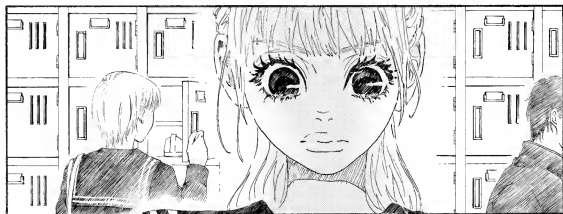
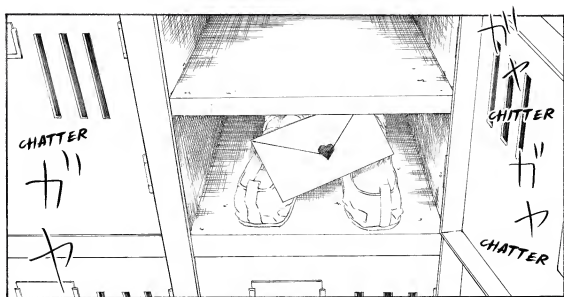


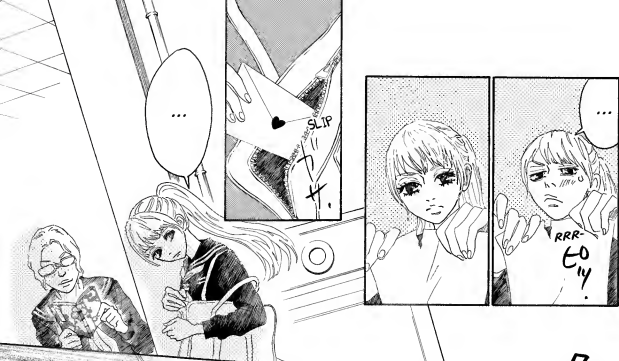
"THE
PEOPLE OF
THIS TOWN,
THEY LET
ME DO
WHATEVER
I WANT."

**GO
AWAY!**









A LOGBOOK TAKEN TO TEMPLES
TO BE SIGNED AND STAMPED BY
THE PRIEST.



THAT
SURE IS
SOME-
THING...

...I
GUESS
IT'S
TRUE
THAT
TAKEDA-
SAN IS
MIXED
RACE.



EH-
HEM.

CHACK

ス
チャッ

SINCE I BECAME
A THIRD-YEAR IN
MIDDLE SCHOOL...



SHE'S
TALLER THAN
ME, TOO.

oo



THE OTHER
THIRD-YEAR
GIRLS...

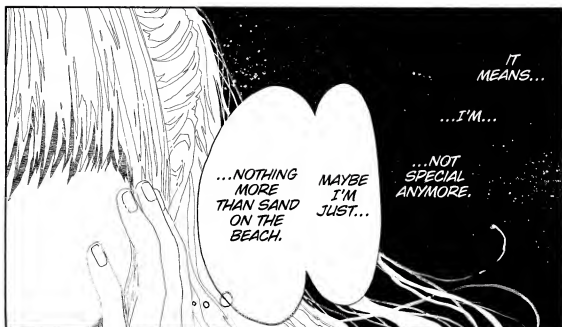
...I'VE SEEN
MANY OF MY
CLASSMATES
GET TALLER
THAN ME.



...
AND IT
KIND
OF
IRKS
ME.

THEY EACH
HAVE
THEIR OWN
APPEALING
QUALITIES...

...HAVE
BECOME
VERY
BEAUTIFUL.



IT
MEANS...

...I'M...

...NOT
SPECIAL
ANYMORE.

...NOTHING
MORE
THAN SAND
ON THE
BEACH.

MAYBE
I'M
JUST...



I'M A
HUMAN
SANDBAG.

...THAT'S
WHY I
FEEL SO
HEAVY ALL
THE TIME.

MAYBE
...



BENEATH
THIS
BURLAP
SACK OF
SKIN...

...I'M
NOTHING BUT
FEATURELESS
SAND.

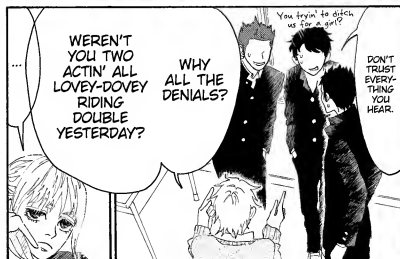
...THAT'S
WHY ALL
I HEAR
FROM MY
RIGHT EAR
IS THE
OCEAN.

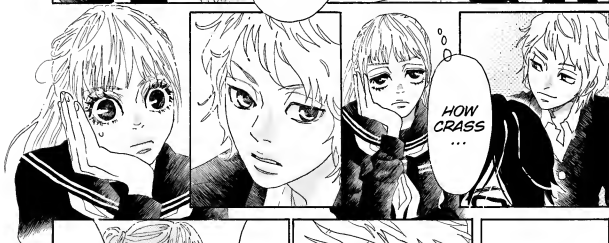
MAYBE
...

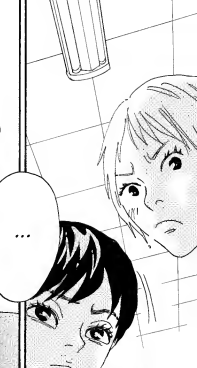
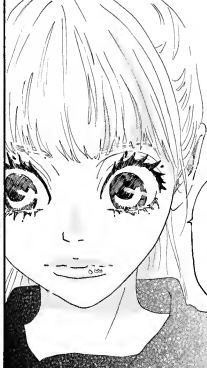
IT'S SUCH
A DRAG.

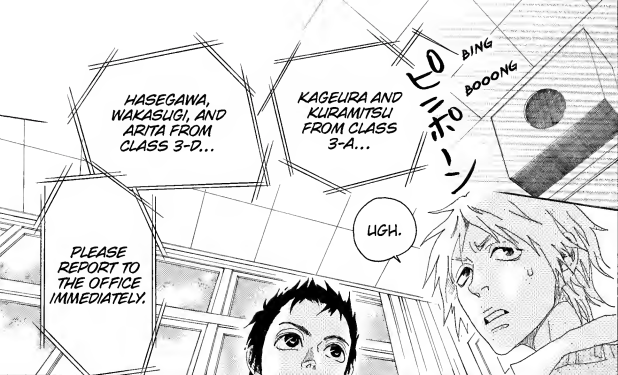
...THAN
ENDURE THE
REAL ME.

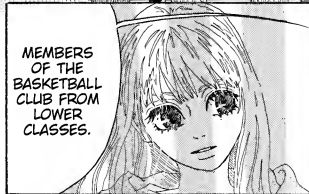
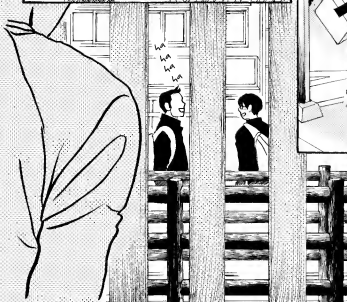
I'D RATHER
THINK OF MYSELF
LIKE THAT...













OKAY...

...



IF YOU DON'T START
TALKING, I'LL MAKE
SURE I TALK TO
YOU A WHOLE
BUNCH TOMORROW
AT SCHOOL!

WELL...

...I GUESS
I HAVE
STUFF I
WANNA ASK
YOU, TOO.

HUH?



...



JINGLE-
LING

お
キ
ラ
ラ

HE CALLED
OUT THE
NUMBER-
ONE MOST
DANGEROUS
UPPER-
CLASSMAN!

DID YOU
HEAR
WHAT
KOU DID
YESTER-
DAY?

He's
got no
sense of
decorum!
He
called me
"Demon"
Kempie!
I'll make
him into
tempura.

UH-OH!

OTOMO!
OTOMO!

WELL...

IS HE
OKAY?!

WHAT,
REALLY
?





YOU
ROUGHED
HIM UP
FOR US!

I
HEARD
!



KOU!

Alone?
No
way!

With that
swoolen
sword, he
ain't nothin'
to be
afraid of!



OTOMO!
OTOMO!



HA
HA
HA!

EVEN SEEING
KOU SENDS
SHIVERS DOWN
THE SPINES
OF EVERY
THIRD-YEAR!

NICE!

...HE CALLED
OUT AN
UPPERCLASSMAN
WHO'D BEAT ME
UP BEFORE AND
BEAT THE SNOT
OUTTA HIM!

SO,
YES-
TER-
DAY
...



OH, RIGHT!
YOU AND
KOU USED
TO BE
CLOSE,
RIGHT?

YEAH, WELL,
I HAD ONE,
BUT KOU BEAT
HIM HALF TO
DEATH, AND HE
TRANSFERRED.

...It was pretty
effective.

IF YOU GOT
SOME UPPER-
CLASSMAN
WHO PISSES
YOU OFF, WE'LL
TAKE GOOD
CARE OF 'EM.

THE THIRD-
YEARS ARE
PAYING KOU
DEFERENCE
NOW?

WHAT
THE
HECK?

...AND
HE BEAT
THEM
UP,
TOO.

THERE
WAS A
GROUP OF
FIRST-YEARS
ACTING ALL
BIG...

WHAT I
HEARD...

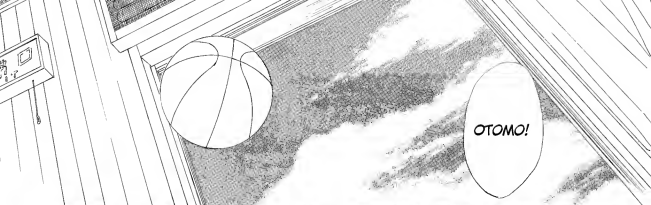
SERI-
OUSLY
?!

HON-
ESTLY,
HE'S JUST
RUNNING
WILD
AT THIS
POINT.

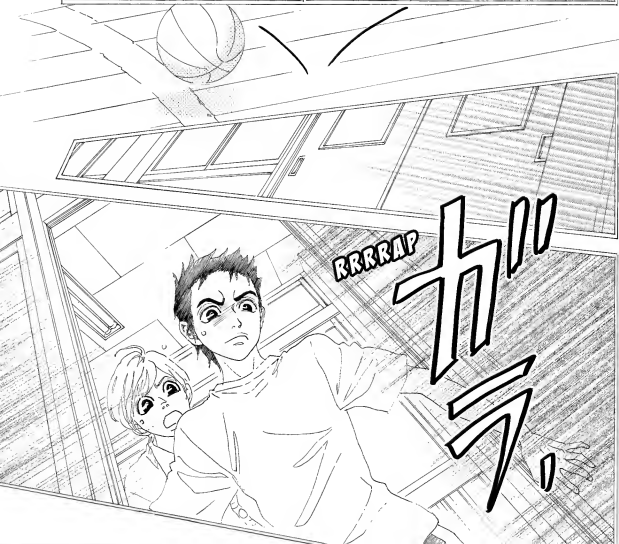
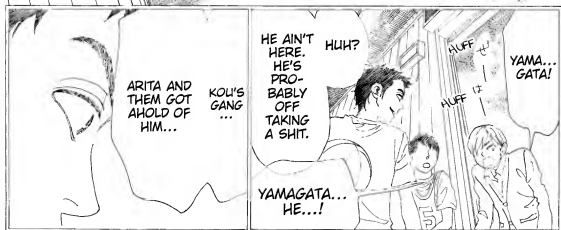
I HEARD
HE'S GOING
AFTER
PEOPLE
FROM OTHER
SCHOOLS?

HE'S EVEN
SHAKING
DOWN UNDER-
CLASSMEN
FOR MONEY.

I DON'T THINK
IT'S ANYTHING
MORE THAN
KILLING TIME
FOR HIM.



OTOMO!



OTOMO
...

YOU
...!

WHAT
THE HELL
ARE YOU
DOING?!

ARE
YOU
OKAY
?!

YAMA-
GATA!

OH, SORRY.
WAS HE A
FRIEND OF
YOURS?





YOU
GOT A
PROBLEM,
OTOMO?

HE GAVE
ARITA A
DIRTY
LOOK, SO
WE DON'T
LIKE HIM.

ARITA'S
IN THE
SAME
CLASS
AS
HIM.

YOU AIN'T
INVOLVED
IN THIS.

RIGHT,
KOU?

HM?

WHAT
IS IT...

OTOMO?

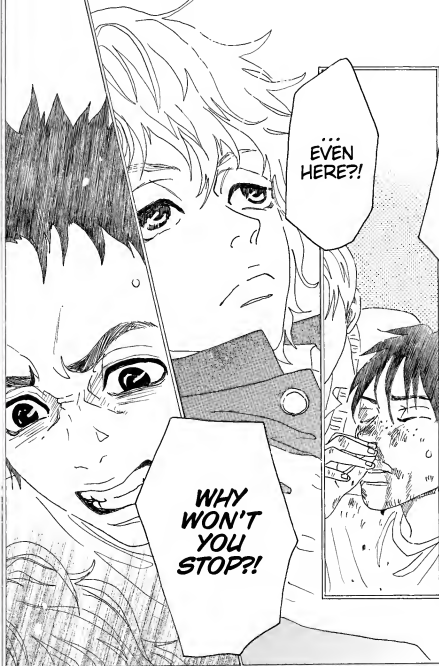
YOU'RE
MAKING
A WEIRD
FACE.



GRAP

OTOMO?!

WHY?!



EVEN
HERE?!

WHY...

...ARE
YOU...

WHY
WON'T
YOU
STOP?!



HEY...

IT DOESN'T
MATTER IF
YOU DIDN'T IF
YOU'RE JUST
GOING TO GRIN
ABOUT IT!

IT'S NOT
LIKE I
TOLD THEM
TO DO IT.

WHAT'S
THE
ISSUE?



AH
HA
HA!
KNOCK
IT
OFF!

JUST
TRY IT,
PUNK!

OH?!

I
don't
care
which!

...YOU'D
BETTER CALM
DOWN OR,
YOU'RE NEXT
ON THE LIST.







HUH
?!



WHY DO YOU
WANT TO
KNOW? WH-

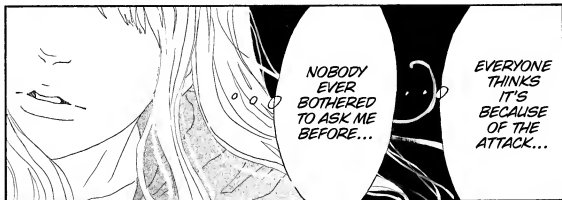
WHY WHY
NOW? THAT?



...

...SO...

...WHY DID
YOU TWO
BREAK UP?



NOBODY
EVER
BOTHERED
TO ASK ME
BEFORE...

EVERYONE
THINKS
IT'S
BECAUSE
OF THE
ATTACK...



IT'S
YOUR
TURN
NOW.

I TOLD
YOU MY
THING.



...



I
IDOLIZED
HIM.
BUT
WHEN
I
REALLY
REA-
LIZED
HE'S
NOT A
GOD...

...HE
KNEW.

...HE
WASN'T
THERE
FOR ME.

IT'S
BECAUSE...



...TO KEEP
US BOTH
FROM BEING
BADLY HURT.

...WAS
THE ONLY
WAY...

BREAKING
UP...

...THAT
WOULD TWIST
MY EMOTIONS
INTO HATRED.

I COULDN'T
BEAR THE
DARKNESS...

NOT
ONE
THING.

...COULDN'T
TAKE ANY
MORE.

I
JUST...



...
DON'T
GET
WHAT
I
MEAN.

YOU
PRO-
BABLY
...



NO.

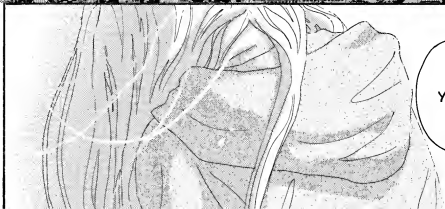
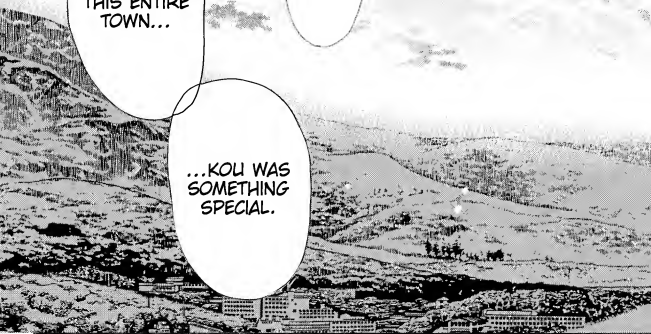
I
KINDA
DO.



FOR
ME...

FOR
THIS ENTIRE
TOWN...

...KOU WAS
SOMETHING
SPECIAL.



...
YEAH.



...SAD.

IT'S
KIND
OF...

WISHFUL
THINKING, HUH?



...THAT
FIRE...

...

...AND
HOW HE
IS NOW...

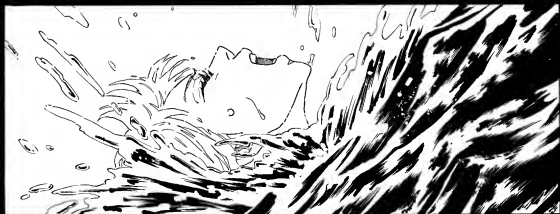
...BOTH WHEN
HE WAS MY
GOD...

THE MYSTERIOUS
FLAMES THAT ALWAYS
SURROUNDED HIM...

...WHAT I
IT IS. WONDER...

...STILL MAKES
ME FEEL
STRANGE.

...SEEING
THEM...



HEH
HEH...

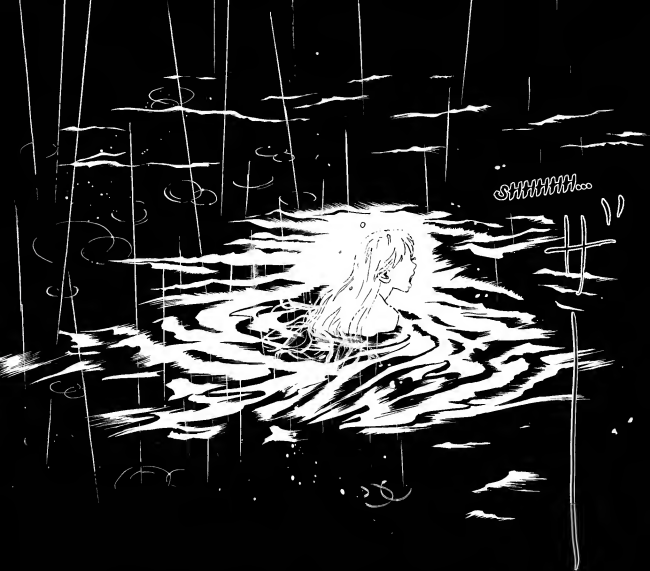
I MUST
BE CRAZY.



**H
A
A
A
A
A
A
!**

**A
A
H
!**

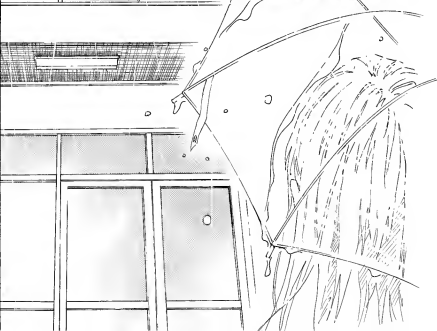


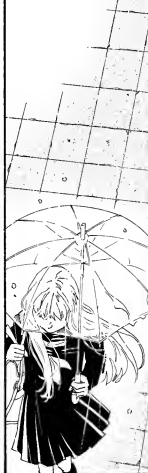
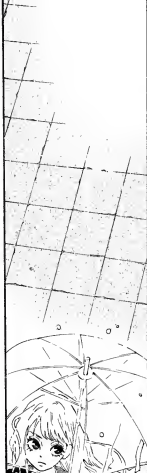


...BE EXPELLED WITH
MY UNHEARD SHOUT,
AND DISAPPEAR!

THIS MEANINGLESS
PASSION OF
MINE...

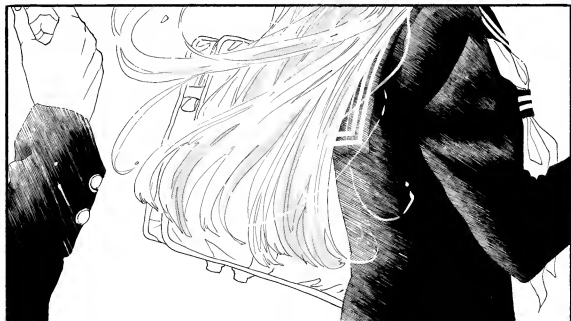
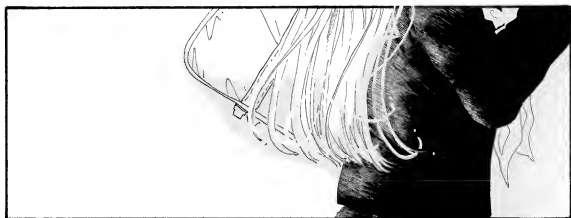
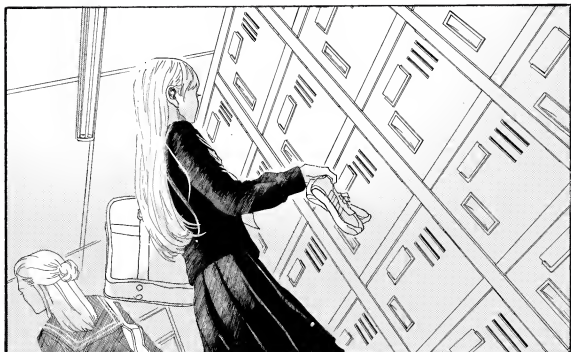
0
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0













24

Change



IT'S DEFINITELY
SOMETHING
STRANGE!

NO...





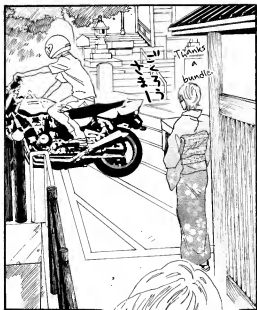
KOU-
CHAN IS
DEFINITELY
ACTING
STRANGE!

...I'VE
FELT HIS
EYES
ON ME.

FOR SOME
REASON...

FOR THE
PAST FEW
DAYS...





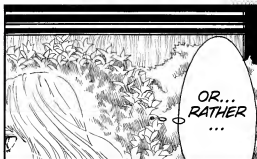
THANKS
A
BUNCH.

ひねす
屋

HINEMOSU INN

HIS
BROTHER
HANDLED
THE
DELIVERY
TODAY,
TOO...

He must be
busy with club.



OR...
RATHER
...

BUT I
DON'T HAVE
ANYONE
ELSE TO
TALK TO.

IF I
TRY TO
TALK TO
HIM AT
SCHOOL
...
...HE'LL
GET
MAD AT
ME.

...I GET THE
FEELING THE
BURDENS WE
BEAR BECAUSE
OF KOU-CHAN
ARE VERY
SIMILAR.

...ARE
DIFFERENT.
BUT...

OTOMO
AND I...

...I WANT
TO TALK
TO HIM.

I AM, TOO.

GRANDPA!

THE WAY HE
SAID THAT...
AND ASKED
WHY KOU-
CHAN AND I
BROKE UP...



"ALL OF IT
MIGHT JUST
HAVE BEEN
WISHFUL
THINKING."

...HE'S
STILL
CURIOUS
ABOUT IT.

EVEN IF
HE GAVE
UP...

THE WAY HE
WONDERED
ABOUT WHY
KOU-CHAN
CHANGED...

VERY
EFFICA-
CIOUS!

IT WAS
BLESSED
AT THE
MAIN
SHRINE.

I DID!
THANK
YOU!

YOU
PUT A
TALISMAN
ON YOUR
HELMET.

OH!

Yeah...
Kou-chan's
family
runs every
shrine in
the area...



...I HOPE
KOU-CHAN
DOESN'T
SEE ME.

...



...BUT UPSETTING
OUR DELICATE
BALANCE LIKE THAT...

BEING IGNORED
LIKE THAT
HURTS, TOO...

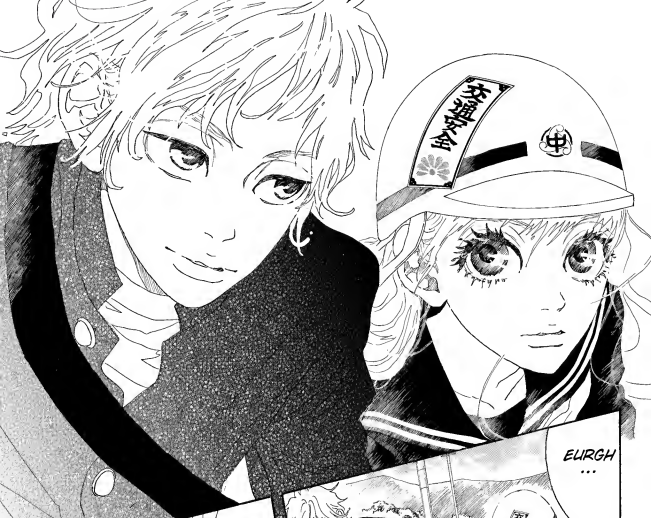
I BROKE US APART
SO I WOULDN'T
GET HURT.



IT'S KIND OF...
WELL...

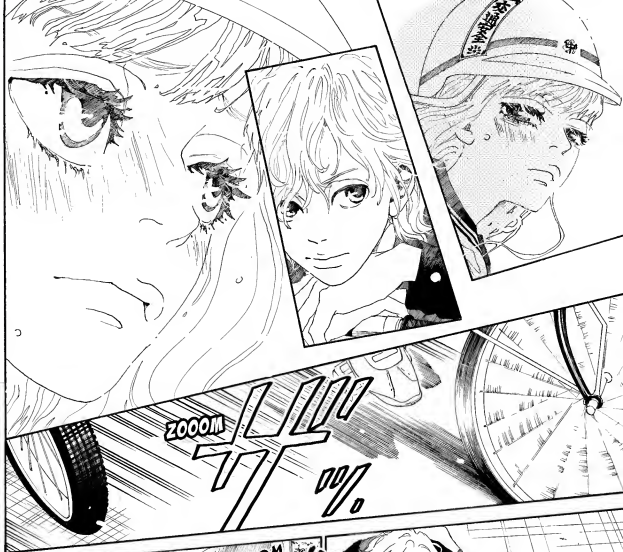
...IT'S A
BOTHER.





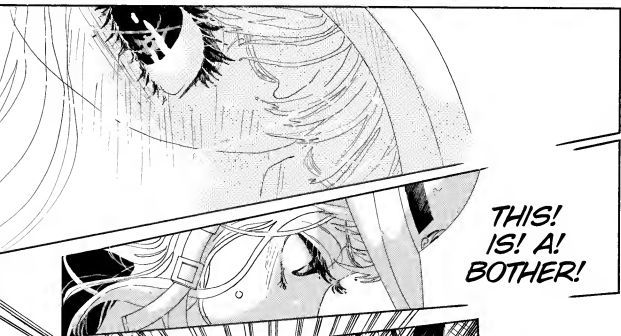
EURGH
...





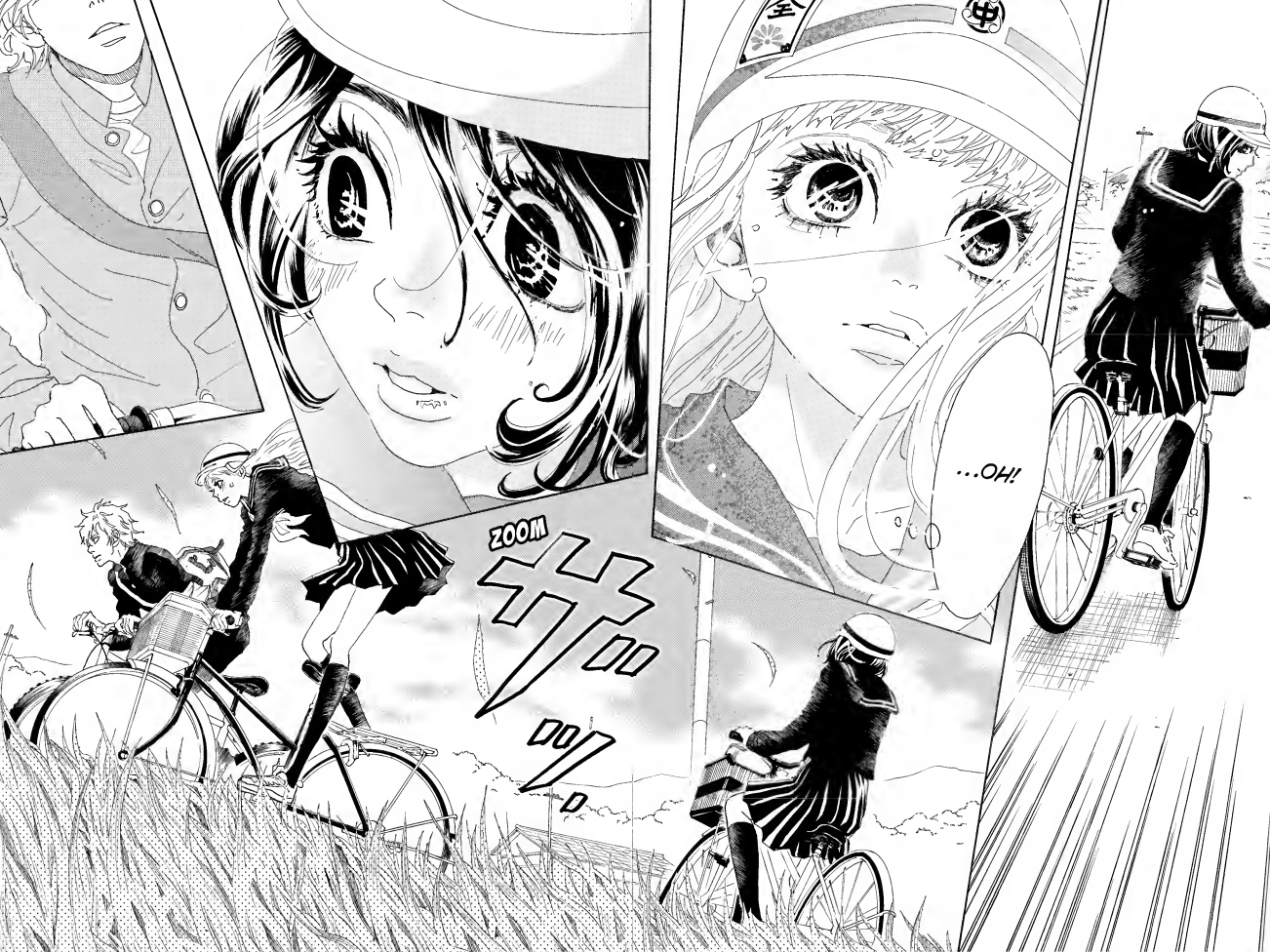


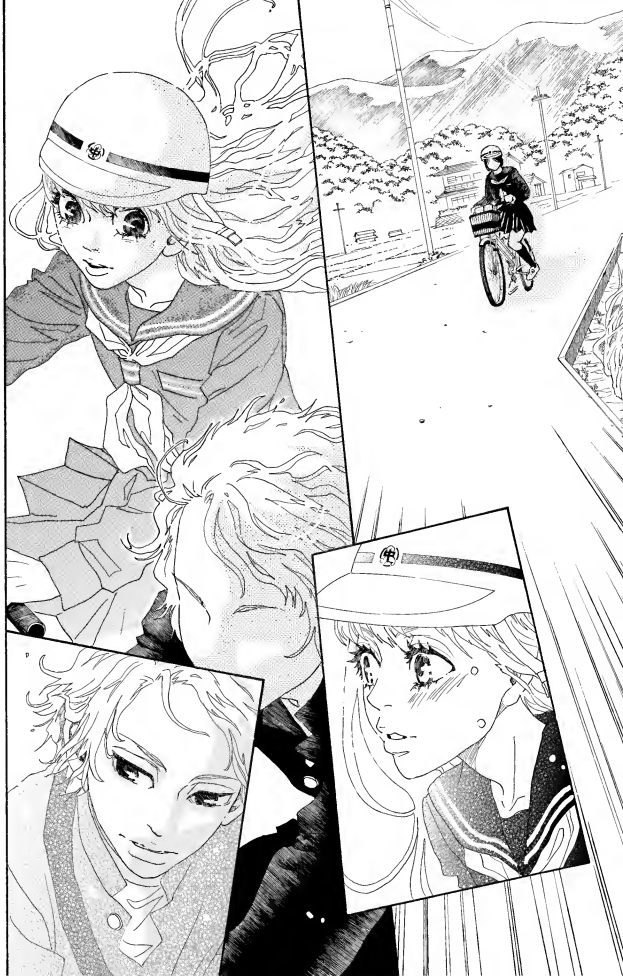
LIKE I
SAID!



THIS!
IS! A!
BOTHER!

















KOLI-
CHAN...



KOLI-
CHAN...



KOLI-
CHAN...





...MAYBE...

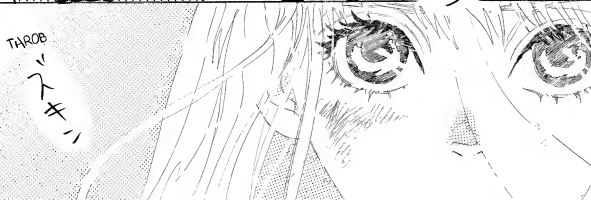
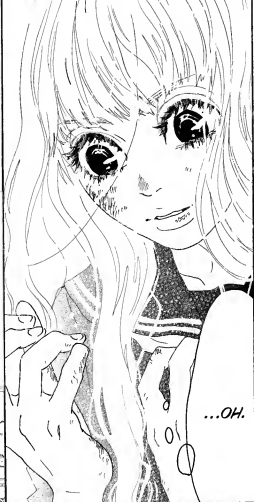
IF I CHASE
AFTER HIM...



...THINGS
WILL GO
BACK TO
HOW THEY
USED TO
BE.









HELP

...JUST
A BIG
BOTHER.



OUCH!

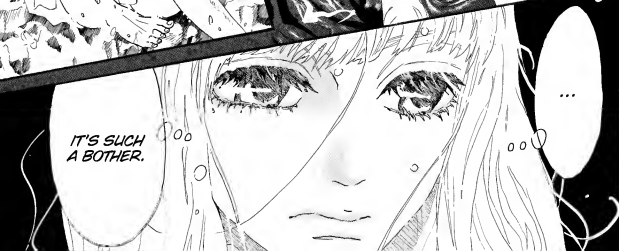
That
smarts.

SPLISH



SPLASH

SPLISH



IT'S SUCH
A BOTHER.

...



MAYBE
A
ONE-
IN-A-
MILLION
CHANCE.



...BUT
THERE'S
NO WAY
THAT
CAN
HAPPEN.

IT'S
ALMOST LIKE
HE WANTS
TO MAKE
THINGS LIKE
THEY USED
TO BE...



KOU-CHAN
IS ACTING
STRANGELY
TOWARDS ME.



IN THE END...

DO I...

...HAVE TO GO
THROUGH THAT
EXPERIENCE
AGAIN?



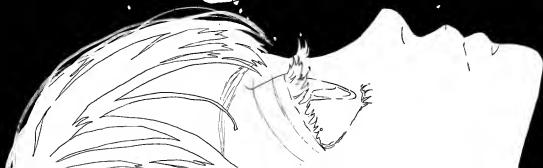
UGH.



I HATE
IT.



...



I'D
LIKE TO
DISCUSS
SOMETHIN'
WITH YOU
IN THE
FACULTY
OFFICE.

...

OH...
WAS I
THAT
OBTUS-
US?

IS THIS
ABOUT
THAT
CLUB
AGAIN?

HAVE
YOU?

WELL...
I'VE DECIDED
TO ABANDON
THE PUSHY
APPROACH.

Is this
about the
"Snack
Dream
Magical
thing"?

MOCHI-
ZUKI.

FACULTY OFFICE
職員室

THERE
AIN'T
REALLY
MUCH
POINT...

HUH?

...IF YOU'RE
THE ONLY
MEMBER,
ANYWAYS.

I SHOULD
JUST BE ABLE
TO KEEP CALM.

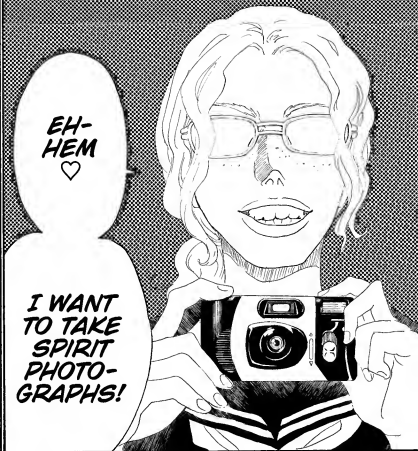


YOU TWO'RE IN THE SAME GROUP FOR THE SCHOOL, TRIP TOO.

ISN'T THAT NICE? VERY ENTHUSIASTIC, YEAH?

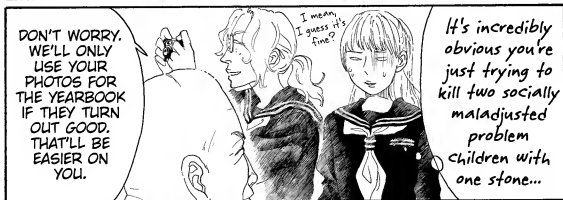
YOU'LL BE GREAT FRIENDS!

UM...



EH-HEM
♡

I WANT TO TAKE SPIRIT PHOTOGRAPHS!



DON'T WORRY. WE'LL ONLY USE YOUR PHOTOS FOR THE YEARBOOK IF THEY TURN OUT GOOD. THAT'LL BE EASIER ON YOU.

I mean, I guess it's fine?

It's incredibly obvious you're just trying to kill two socially maladjusted problem children with one stone...



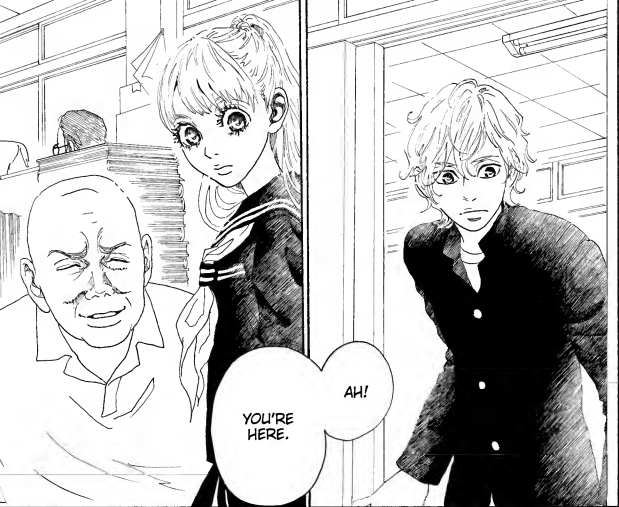
カッ
SHHK
フッ

HUH?

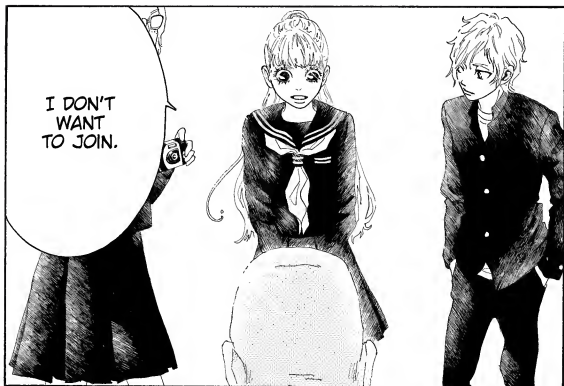


...WE MIGHT HAVE ONE MORE PERSON JOINING, TOO.

ALSO...

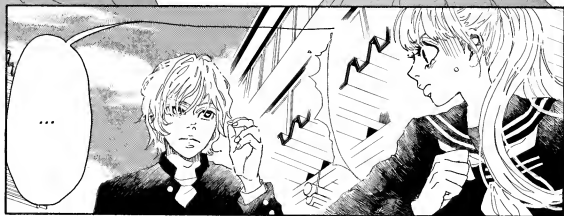


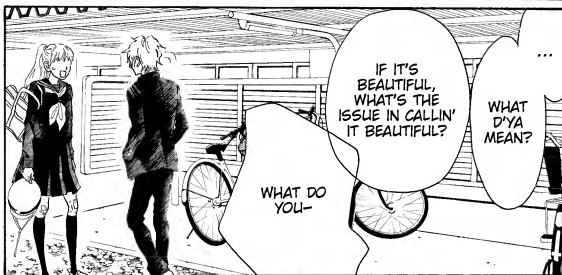




7000
RUSTLE







...
WHAT
DO YOU
THINK
YOU'RE
DOING...

...WHEN
WE'VE
BROKEN
UP?



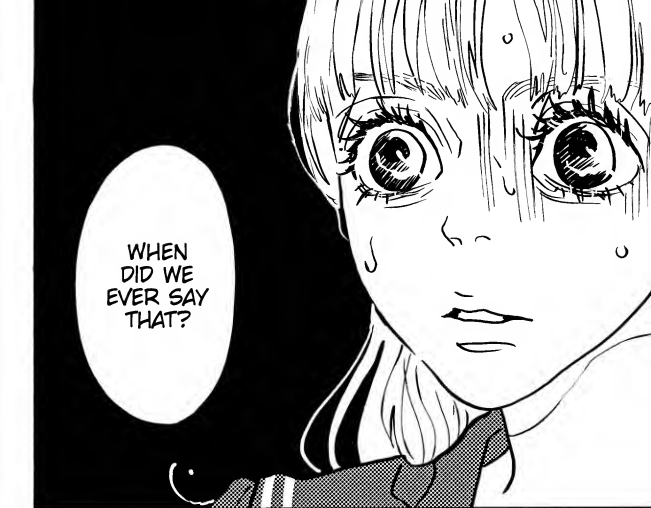
DID
WE BREAK
UP?

...



YOU
CAN'T
JUST
KEEP
DOING
THIS!

I...



WHEN
DID WE
EVER SAY
THAT?



WHOA
NOW!

CRASH
カニカ

I ABSOLUTELY
CAN'T STAND
YOU RIGHT
NOW!

LOOK!



SNATCH



WHAT?

LOOK!

AND THAT
STUPID
HAIRCUT
OF YOURS!
IT JUST
PISSES
ME OFF
MORE
EVERY
DAY
!!

DO YOU
STILL THINK
I'LL FORGIVE
ANYTHING
AND EVERY-
THING YOU
DO?!

HOW
CAN YOU
JUST
LAUGH
THIS
OFF
LIKE
IT'S
SOME
KIND OF
JOKE?!



I NEVER
WANT TO
TALK TO
YOU EVER
AGAIN!





WHOOSH

AH
HAH...

I SEE.

アハハハハ
ハハハハハ

THERE'S
NO WAY I
CAN STAY
CALM LIKE
THIS.

TAROB
ズキ
ニ

TAROB
ズキ
ニ

TAROB
ズキ
ニ

CONTINUED IN DROWNING LOVE
VOLUME SEVEN



*Drowning
Love*

Drowning Love 6

KODANSHA COMICS Digital Edition

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